

FACT SHEET

Overview: **USAID/COMFISH**, Senegal



Protecting Crucial Marine Fisheries

Marine fisheries harvested along the Atlantic coast of Senegal in West Africa play a critical role in food security, livelihoods, local and national economic growth and the well-being of the Senegalese people.

Industrial and traditional fisheries, as well as related endeavors, employ about 11 percent of the nation's total labor force. The fishing sector also accounts for 60 percent of protein intake for this nation of 13 million people. This source of protein and economic returns is invaluable in a country where food security issues are serious due to the increasing instances of drought, and where nearly one in five children under age five is underweight,

according to the Global Hunger Index. To help develop and protect this critical resource, in 2011 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Collaborative Management for a Sustainable Fisheries Future in Senegal (COMFISH) through its global Leader with Associates award program, SUCCESS (Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems).

The five-year USAID/COMFISH project is being implemented and directed by the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Graduate School of Oceanography and the URI Fisheries Center of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

ABOVE, artisanal fisherman, using traditional methods, number in the tens of thousands in Senegal.



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By the numbers*

600,000 — number of Senegalese whose livelihoods rely on fisheries and fisheries-related work

350,000 — metric tons of fish landed by the artisanal fishery (largest in West Africa)

60,000 — number of Senegalese directly involved in fisheries workforce

19,000 — number of artisanal fishing boats

60% — amount of the nation's animal protein provided by fisheries

47% — amount of the nation's total protein provided by fisheries

70% — amount of women who are iron deficient

33% — approximate percentage of those living below the poverty line

66% — approximate percentage of people earning less than US \$2 a day

46% — households vulnerable to food insecurity

20% — households highly vulnerable to food insecurity

17% — children under age five who are underweight

*Figures based on recent information collected by COMFISH

The Aim of the Project

USAID/COMFISH takes a co-management and ecosystem-based approach to fisheries with the goals of reducing food insecurity, supporting economic growth, helping to create more sustainable fisheries and developing fishing communities that are more resilient to climate change.

Through institutional capacity building and participatory management planning, USAID/COMFISH aims to improve the long-term health of fish stocks and to increase the well-being of the labor force in the fisheries sub-sector, consistent with Senegal's national policy goals.

Measurable, attainable goals

The project has set forth well-defined targets and indicators.

- Strengthening the capacities of institutions and stakeholders at all levels of governance
- Testing and applying strategies, policies and good practices for managing key fish stocks, building resilience to climate change and conserving biodiversity
- Developing concrete actions

to adapt to climate change and implementing them with positive impacts

- Achieving resilient increases in social and economic benefits for fishing communities

Key achievements so far

Tangible results are evident:

- Formal approval and initial implementation of three legal instruments to allow co-management fisheries rules and regulations in the marine jurisdiction of three Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils; process underway for the same in three additional Councils
- Declaration on the Role of Women in Fisheries signed by the Department of Marine Fisheries
- Economic return for 170 women processors improved through more hygienic processing, better equipment, better packaging and marketing, as well as literacy, math and leadership training
- Knowledge basis for fisheries management planning for key species put in place through comprehensive biological and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of key fish stocks

To learn more

http://www.crc.uri.edu/download/COMFISH_SQR_Jan_March_2012_English.pdf

<http://www.usaid.gov>
<http://www.ifpri.org/book-8018/ourwork/researcharea/global-hunger-index>